

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A printing control device, comprising:

a printer-specific information storage unit storing printer-specific information which identifies a printer, the printer specific information including at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of the printer;

a search unit for locating a printer connected to a network and obtaining printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network;

a comparing unit comparing the printer-specific information for the located printer obtained by the search unit with the printer-specific information of a particular printer stored in the printer-specific information storage unit, and determining if the located printer is the particular printer; and

an update unit obtaining new printer-specific information about the located printer searched for by the search unit, and updating corresponding information stored in the printer-specific information storage unit to the new printer-specific information when the comparing unit determines that the located printer is the particular printer.

18. (New) The printing control device according to claim 17, further comprising:

a setting update unit updating a printer port setting based on the information updated in the update unit.

19. (New) The printing control device according to claim 17, further comprising:

a judging unit judging whether the particular printer is powered off or if an IP address of the particular printer has been changed when communications with the printer fail.

20. (New) The printing control device according to claim 17, wherein, said search unit locates the printer connected to the network and obtains printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network and the comparing unit compares the printer-specific information for the located printer with the printer-specific information of the particular printer when it is determined that there is no DHCP server on the network.

21. (New) The printing control device according to claim 17, further comprising:

a notifying unit, notifying another device on the network of the new printer-specific information about the located printer updated by said update unit.

22. (New) The printing control device according to claim 21, wherein said notifying unit includes

a reading unit reading a former access history record and a new access history record from the located printer searched for by said search unit;

a determining unit that determines if the device has un-updated printer-specific information based on differences between the former access history record and the new access history record read by said reading unit, and

said notifying unit notifies the device of the new printer-specific information.

23. (New) A method for controlling a printing device, comprising:

storing printer-specific information which identifies a printer, the printer-specific information including at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of a printer in a printer-specific information storage unit;

locating a printer connected to a network and obtaining printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network via a search unit;

comparing the printer-specific information for the located printer obtained by the search unit with the printer-specific information of a particular printer stored in the printer specific-information storage unit via a comparing unit and determining if the located printer is the particular printer; and

obtaining, via an update unit, new printer-specific information about the located printer searched for by the search unit and updating corresponding information stored in the printer-specific information storage unit to the new printer-

specific information when the comparing unit determines that the located printer has identical printer-specific information to the particular printer.

24. (New) The method for controlling a printing device according to claim 23, further comprising:

updating a printer port setting with a setting up date unit based on the information updated in the update unit.

25. (New) The method for controlling a printing device according to claim 23, further comprising:

judging whether the particular printer is powered off or if an IP address of the particular printer has been changed via a judging unit when communications with a printer failed.

26. (New) The method for controlling a printing device according to claim 23, further comprising:

said search unit locates the printer connected to the network and obtains printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network and the comparing unit compares the printer-specific information for the located printer with the printer-specific information of the particular printer when it is determined that there is no DHCP server on the network.

27. (New) The method for controlling a printing device according to claim 23, further comprising:

notifying another device on the network of the new printer-specific information about the located printer updated by the update unit via a notifying unit.

28. (New) The method for controlling a printing device according to claim 27, further comprising:

reading a former access history record and a new access history record from the located printer searched for by the search unit; and

determining if a device has un-updated printer-specific information based on the differences between the former access history record and the new access history record read by the reading unit; and

notifying the device of the new printer-specific information via the notifying unit.

29. (New) A computer readable medium storing computer program instructions which when executed by a computer programmed with the instructions, causes the computer to perform the following steps:

storing printer-specific information which identifies a printer, the printer specific information including at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of a printer, in a printer-specific information storage unit;

locating a printer connected to a network and obtaining printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network via a search unit;

comparing the printer-specific information for the located printer obtained by the search unit with the printer-specific information of a particular printer stored in the printer-specific information storage unit via a comparing unit and determining if the located printer is the particular printer; and

obtaining, via an update unit, new printer-specific information about the located printer searched for by the search unit and updating corresponding information stored in the printer-specific information storage unit to the new printer-specific information when the comparing unit determines that the located printer has identical printer-specific information to the particular printer.

30. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 29, further comprising computer program instructions which when executed by a computer programmed with the instructions causes the computer to:

update a printer port setting with a setting up date unit based on the information updated in the update unit.

31. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 29, further comprising computer program instructions which when executed by a computer programmed with the instructions causes the computer to:

judge whether the particular printer is powered off or if an IP address of the particular printer has been changed via a judging unit when communications with a printer failed.

32. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 29, further comprising computer program instructions which when executed by a computer programmed with the instructions causes the computer to:

determine if a DHCP server is on the network;

said search unit locates the printer connected to the network and obtains printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network and the comparing unit compares the printer-specific information for the located printer with the printer-specific information of the particular printer when it is determined that there is no DHCP server on the network.

33. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 32, further comprising computer program instructions which when executed by a computer programmed with the instructions causes the computer to

notify another device on the network of the new printer-specific information about the located printer updated by the update unit via a notifying unit.

34. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions which when executed by a computer program with the instructions causes the computer to:

read a former access history record and a new access history record from the located printer searched for by the search unit; and

determine if a device has un-updated printer-specific information based on the differences between the former access history record and the new access history record read by the reading unit; and

notify the device of the new printer-specific information via the notifying unit.